

OMCB Fall 2012 E-NEWS OMCB Fall 2012 E-  
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Happy Autumn to Licensees and other Persons Interested  
in Death Care in Oregon!

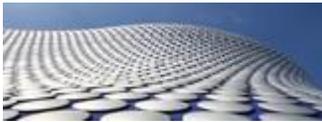


**This is the FIFTH issue of the OMCB E-News!**

Previous issues have:

- reminded you about our information-packed [website](#) and gave you [updated apprenticeship log samples](#),
- shared with you that Oregon's [registered domestic partner law](#) gives the same right as 'spouse' for controlling final disposition arrangements in ORS 97.130,
- advised why facilities [can't have a policy requiring embalming](#) for most viewing,
- gave you a link to the [updated 10-day body hold form](#) that points to the law requiring State Lands involvement when there is no known family,
- shared about [rule amendments/processes](#),

- explained why cemeteries aren't seeing many of those green [death certificate working copies](#) anymore,
- provided sample copies of the required [Disposition Authorization and Scattering Authorization forms](#) (due to rule changes), and,
- reminded everyone about [FTC Funeral Rule](#) requirements to give every consumer the funeral home's general price list or casket price list prior to discussing prices.



### **The STATE IDENTIFICATION TAG - WHEN is it**

#### **attached to remains?**



**At the Funeral Home:** The metal State Identification ("ID") Tag (issued to funeral homes by Oregon Health Authority – Center for Vital Statistics) is for the purpose of identifying human remains that come into the custody of a funeral establishment and accompanies the remains to the crematory or cemetery where the crematory Sexton, cemetery Sexton or transportation company can view the ID Tag. They verify that the number on that ID Tag is the same number printed on the Final Disposition Authorization (the document that establishes that a physician or medical examiner has determined the cause of death so that final disposition may occur. The ID Tag shouldn't be kept in the decedent's file in the office. See [OAR 830-030-0000\(4\)](#) and [ORS 692.405](#).

Attaching the ID Tag to **human remains** can be accomplished several ways - Threading a rubber band through the hole in the ID Tag and looping it back through itself allows you to easily attach the ID Tag to the decedent's ankle or wrist. Others use wire or a plastic zip-tie to secure the ID Tag to the remains.

When attaching the ID Tag to a **soft container** (such as a plastic sheet or shroud) or a **rigid container** (like a fiberboard alternative container) you can use tape, wire or a zip tie. Some caskets are designed with, or licensees affix to, the outside of

*the casket, a 'hook' on which the ID Tag hangs while storing the remains, or during a viewing or when transporting the casket to the place of final disposition.*

*Many facilities also use permanent markers to clearly write the decedent's name on the soft or rigid container or on the affixed cardboard tag for additional assurance for identifying the remains, and this method works well for out-of-state deaths.*

***At the Cemetery or Crematory:** Before a cemetery or crematory accepts remains the law requires that the Sexton verify that the State ID Tag number attached to the remains (or to the container) is the same number on the Final Disposition Authorization. If not, the cemetery or crematory must not accept the remains, nor should they permit the alteration of a number on the Final Disposition Authorization so that they match – Altering this form does not ensure that the correct remains have been delivered. In cases of error, the funeral home must retain custody of the remains until the mistake is investigated completely and corrected properly. When relevant, a new Final Disposition Authorization is created.*

*After cremation, the State ID Tag must be placed on or in the cremated remains container.*

For the steps a Sexton and facility must follow, see these checklist and please share with all relevant employees:

### **Cemetery Procedures and Crematory Procedures**



### **VETERANS INFORMATION: New Veterans**



### **Benefits Magazine**

*In an effort to reach the more than 330,000 veterans in the state of Oregon, the legislature enacted law during the 2011 Regular Session (Senate Bill 241) to direct state agencies to make reasonable efforts to ask clients if they are veterans, as well as to provide those veterans with information regarding their veteran benefits. In response to this directive, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs developed the comprehensive **Veterans Benefits Magazine** that contains detailed information on all state and federal veteran benefits. This magazine includes a directory of resources and information on*

benefits such as the disability claims process, accessing healthcare, employment resources, **dependent and survivor benefits, burial benefits** (see pages 18 and 19) and many more topics. Let's all reach out to our states' veterans to ensure they receive the benefits they have earned through their honorable service and sacrifice.



**IT'S RENEWAL TIME (for 2013/2014 Facility licenses, and for 2013 Apprenticeship Certificates):**

Avoid letting your license or certificate expire and paying late 'reinstatement' fees by submitting your facility license renewals and apprenticeship certificate renewals before December 31, 2012! Contact Carla if you have any questions about your renewal: 971-673-1507 or [carla.knapp@state.or.us](mailto:carla.knapp@state.or.us)



**PAYING THE DEATH CERTIFICATE FILING FEES** - is the responsibility of the funeral service licensee making final disposition arrangements - or the family if there is no funeral home involved. The Oregon Health Authority receives these fees (\$20.00 for each death) and then disburses a portion to the OMCB, and a portion to the Indigent Disposition Fund. Some facilities wait until they have received a monthly invoice containing several filing fees before sending OHA a check, and this works fine. However, once these fees are more than 90 days overdue and OHA (DHS) sends out the **third billing** for past due filing fees, they do not continue to send more invoices with these specific delinquent filing fees. However, they do report these third billing invoices to the Board, who can then initiate disciplinary action for failing to pay the filing fees. See OAR 830-030-0000(9). Please be sure to forward these fees, usually paid by the family, to OAH in a timely manner.

*Thanks to all who provided input for this E-News edition. Keep your suggestions coming and invite your friends and co-workers to get on the list to receive them, too! If you want to be removed from our "interested persons" email list, just let us know by replying "please remove from this list."*

*The OMCB hopes your holidays are wonderful.*



*Lynne*

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